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REGIONAL LIBRARIES FUNDING REVIEW REPORT

The consultation meetings are over and the written submissions are in. All the comments, concerns and issues raised by regional library boards and municipal councils have been passed on to the Minister of Education. The first announcements made concerning the recommendations will be those relating to funding. These are deemed to be the most urgent. Announcements on the other recommendations will be made over the coming months.

The Regional Libraries Funding Formula Review Committee has been made an on-going committee with revised Terms of Reference and membership being developed over the next few months. It was obvious from the responses that the proposed formula did not provide a suitable method for funding regional libraries. The formula will be referred back to the Committee for further work.

In the absence of a viable formula for calculating provincial grants to regional library boards, each regional library board will receive the same amount of money from the Province that they received in 1993-94. This includes the amounts received as Special Operating Grants. A new capital technology grant has been approved to support the Automation Grant Program and $700,000 has been included in the 1994-95 budget for this purpose. Further word on the allocation of these funds will be forthcoming in the near future. The capital construction grant has been expanded to include bookmobiles and regional library headquarters. The allocation for this grant program is $150,000 for 1994-95. Individual projects have not yet been announced.

MANAGEMENT AUDIT

The Management Audit of the Department of Education will be

released at a press conference scheduled for May 25. A meeting with Departmental employees will follow and will continue the next day.

HALIFAX CITY NOW LOADED

The Halifax City Regional Library tape has arrived from multiLIS and is being loaded onto NcompasS this week. HCIRL records will appear on NcompasS as Bank 2. The Automation Working Group received a document written by Jane Beaumont which explains how to interpret records in Bank 2 and Bank 3 (Dartmouth). If you have any questions, please consult this document, or contact Joanne Irwin (jirwin) for more information. Loading this tape is significant in that it means that the holdings of all 11 regional libraries will now be available in a single search. This is a milestone effort as we are the first in Canada to offer our users an on-line province-wide public library system!

INTERNAUTS ABOUND!

In response to the request for home access, NSTN has offered a special rate for staff of Provincial Library and the regional libraries. This rate is $25 for installation and $25 per month with no usage charge. The regular public rate is $35 for installation, $25 per month for 20 hours usage and $1 per hour above this. Check with your Chief Librarian to obtain this special price. Unfortunately, Provincial Library is not able to fund home access. As an alternative to NSTN, there are other Internet providers in Nova Scotia. Chief Librarians were given an informational flyer from one of these companies called ISIS.

SCHOOL/PUBLIC LIBRARIANS MEET IN HALIFAX

Andrea John attended the annual meeting of Halifax school and public librarians. This meeting affords the community the opportunity to meet each other and exchange news.

REGIONAL LIBRARIANS MEET

The Council of Regional Librarians met on Friday May 13 (evidently not a superstitious bunch!) and, as always, the meeting was a great forum for exchanging news and ideas. Business included giving the Nova Scotia Library Association a seat on the newly-formed Council for Youth Services, the formation of a study group to examine options for multilingual biblioservice, and the expression of interest by the librarians in working closely with the One Stop Centres.

LA PICASSE SOD TURNING

A sod turning event took place on May 15 in Petit-de-Grat to officially mark the beginning of construction of La Picasse, a cultural and community centre and the new home of the Petit-de-Grat branch of the Eastern Counties Regional Library. Among those attending this event were representatives from government, Marion Pape, Mary MacRury, Cliff Johnson, Lorraine Fenneil and Andrew Pape as well as members of the community who worked so hard to make this centre a reality.

CHANGING OF THE GUARDS

On May 26th, Donna Bourne-Tyson will be heading to North Bay, Ontario to embark on an new and exciting career as an igloo architect, or librarian, whichever comes first. Since the province of Ontario needed more ergonomists, her husband has accepted a position as such with the Ontario Natural Resources Safety Association. Somewhere in North Bay there will be an ergonomically designed igloo with an open door for Provincial or regional library staff who are mushing through and want to give the dog-team a rest.

Another change at Provincial Library concerns Susan Barnes, who is no longer our System Administrator. At her own request, she is resuming her previous position as library clerk. This is in no way a reflection of the level of her performance as System Administrator. We all appreciate the time, effort and excellent work that Susan put into that position. She will also be leaving us soon to become "Illustrator to the Stars" in Montreal, unless multiLIS head office snaps her up first. This career move is a follow-up to her husband's transfer to Montreal.

We expect to have replacements in these key positions in the near future. In the meantime, however, we ask you to now send multiLIS, e-mail and network support questions, which you would have previously sent to Susan Barnes, to Betsy Armstrong (earmstro) who will redirect the questions to the appropriate staff person. This method will spread the work load among the staff and ensure that you continue to get prompt service. Other Technical Services questions or issues normally handled by the Coordinator of Technical Services, will also be fielded by Betsy Armstrong while other staff members will continue to deal with their own particular areas.

NEW ILL SYSTEM LOOKING HEALTHY

The macros have been successfully rewritten in WP 6.0, and were tested -- so far no bugs or viruses in sight! Documentation is partially written, and will be completed by Dale MacMillan and Sue Dirani. Training will be conducted shortly after that -- stay tuned for an update!

WHALE OF A TALE - NOW FOR SALE!

The t-shirts and sweat shirts for the Summer Reading Programme have arrived and will be sent out to the regions very soon!

REFERENCE E-MAIL GROUP FORMED

A reference e-mail group has been established to make exchanges among reference staffs much easier. Carol Morris gathered contact names from each regional library and sent out an inaugural message which included a tip on how to find help on the Internet.

INTERNET Q & A

Q: When using Veronica to search keywords on the Gopher, what is the difference between searching GOPHER DIRECTORY TITLES and searching GOPHERSPACE? Also, why are there so many choices for each? And are the results of the search the same regardless of which you choose?
F. Popowich, NSNGP

A: When you choose to do a Veronica search, you are presented with a list of items that may be confusing. First, I'll explain the difference between searching gopher directory titles and searching gopherspace. Searching GOPHER DIRECTORY TITLES will only retrieve items containing your keyword which are DIRECTORIES (identified on your screen by a large arrow pointing to the right). Searching GOPHERSPACE will retrieve directories AND individual FILES containing your keyword. Tip: If you want to search a keyword which you think might be too general (and would consequently retrieve TOO MUCH material), it is better to search GOPHER DIRECTORY TITLES only. Then you can go into the directories retrieved and view any individual files. Now on to why there are so many choices given. Each of the items
listed performs exactly the same task but at a different computer host site. The search should produce the same results regardless of which site you choose. Since these super machines are often busy searching, it's difficult to find one that is available when you want to search. The more choices you have, the more chances you have of finding one that isn't busy. If you weren't confused before you're sure to be confused now! For more information contact Sue Dirani (sdirani).

WHAT'S SHAKIN'?

What's goin' down in your neck of the woods? Here's your chance to heat up the wires, talk the talk, and broadcast the news to enquiring minds! The DISSEMINATOR wants to broaden its scope, get the dope, and help you cope. (OK, so poetry isn't my strong

suit!). Your humble editor, "Clairvoyant to the Stars", wants to hear from you about your region, and she ain't DISSing you!

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That's it for this issue. Stay tuned . . . .

If you have any questions or comments about the activities mentioned, please contact the people involved.

We encourage readers to comment on items found in THE DISSEMINATOR and/or make suggestions about content. These comments should be directed to Sue Dirani.

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